

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

NOVEMBER 17, 2009

Strengthen the County's Homeless Coordinating Efforts Motion

According to the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, Los Angeles County ("County") has made great inroads in its efforts to reduce homelessness. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) credits much of this decline to a variety of efforts, including the County's \$100 million Homeless Prevention Initiative ("HPI"), the City of Los Angeles' Permanent Supportive Housing Program and the expanded Section 8 rental voucher program that specifically target homeless individuals and families.

The Chief Executive Office ("CEO") recently confirmed the tremendous success of the County's HPI. The HPI has served nearly 29,000 individuals and over 13,000 families. It has accomplished many of the innovative goals set by the Board of Supervisors to:

- Maintain permanent housing for formerly homeless individuals, youth and families by ensuring that homeless individuals discharged from public hospitals and jail receive case management, housing location, and supportive services;

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

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- Provide 21 communities with housing development and supportive housing services via contracts with local housing developers and service providers;
- Help communities address homelessness in their neighborhoods through development of housing resources and service networks;
- Provide homeless clients with integrated supportive services and housing; and
- Provide access to housing and services for the most vulnerable.

As several of the County's HPI programs expend their one-time only funding, we do not want to lose the ground that has been gained. It is important to ensure that ending homelessness remains a top priority and that future homelessness prevention efforts apply the lessons learned from this initial effort.

We have learned that permanent supportive housing works, yet fragmented and uncoordinated service delivery systems continue to be a huge barrier for homeless families and individuals trying to successfully transition to stable permanent housing. The HPI required an unprecedented degree of coordination of service delivery across County departments, much of which was overseen by the CEO and, in particular, its Service Integration Branch.

The County must continue to improve and build upon this momentum of integrated physical and mental health, substance abuse, housing and other social services for those residents who are homeless and at risk of being homeless. It is paramount that the Board of Supervisors reinforce and invigorate the CEO's ability to

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strengthen and coordinate all County homeless service related activities to maintain service integration across all County departments and build new capacities for reducing homelessness.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT THE CEO:

- 1) In collaboration with the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Social Services, Children and Family Services and Public Health, the Community Development Commission and the LAHSA to develop recommendations on how to strengthen the CEO's ability to oversee, coordinate and integrate Countywide homeless service delivery so that homeless individuals and families can more successfully find safe and permanent housing. This report should:
 - a) Provide recommendations on how to better leverage existing County funds and better maximize federal and state dollars to support the ongoing provision of integrated physical and mental health and substance use services for homeless individuals and families, especially within existing and future permanent housing settings;
 - b) Suggest creative funding methodologies to ensure that the Board of Supervisors can sustain its homeless efforts, including a report back on the feasibility of designating a portion of program funds and contracts for homeless-related services and enhanced coordination;

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- c) Recommend ways to strengthen the CEO's current ability to coordinate and integrate Countywide homeless services delivery and prioritize services for target populations. This should include a discussion of the CEO's

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structure/organization as it relates to oversight of homeless issues and whether the current homeless coordinator position should be upgraded or otherwise strengthened; and

- d) Provide an update on efforts to recruit a Countywide homeless coordinator.
- 2) To present its findings and recommendations to the Board in writing within 30 days.

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